8. Assessment technology for air and water pollution.

9. Material research.

10. Studies on genetic resources.

Fleet of Indian Air Force planes for VVIPs

366. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to constitute a fleet of Indian Air Force planes for international tours of VVIPs, in view of the snag which developed in the Air India plane carrying the Prime Minister, which had to be diverted to Moscow in August, 1986;

(b) whether Indian Air Force planes instead that of Air India/domestic Airlines are likely to ensure greater security for the Prime Minister;

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(d) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) No change is considered necessary at this stage to the present arrangements of using Air India aeroplanes for the foreign tours of VVIPs.

Repair of cracks in Rajasthan Atomic Power Stations

367. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that all the efforts made so far to repair the cracked end shield of the reactor core of Unit-I of Rajasthan Atomic Power Station, detected as far back as in 1982, have failed and the repairs not only involve several million rupees but are also impossible to be carried out with the available technology;

(b) if so, what is the total expenditure incurred so far on its repairs and what is the estimated further expenditure likely to be incurred for the rehabilitation of the unit, if it is undertaken; and

(c) what problems are being faced in carrying out the repairs of the RAPS-I and whether in the event of repairs being impracticable, Government propose to decommission the RAPS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) The technology developed for sealing the individual cracks in the south end shield of RAPS was found to be successful and the Unit operated steadily for a period of about three months generating around 260 million Units earning a revenue of nearly Rs. 8.3 crores. The expenditure incurred in repairs amounted to Rs. 1 crore. However, appearance of new cracks in the end shield in an adjacent region has called for an overall review of the approach to be adopted regarding RAPS-I rehabilitation. An estimate of the expenditure involved as also a decision on the question of decommissioning of RAPS-I can be arrived at only after the precise solution to be adopted is decided upon.

Poaching endangering rare species

368. SHRI K. VASUDEVA PANICKER: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item that appeared in the 'Indian Express' of 18th September, 1986 under the caption 'Poaching endangers rare species' and

(b) if so, the details thereof and what action Government are taking to check this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The news item relates to report of poaching in Himachal Pradesh and action is being taken by the State Government to conserve the wild fauna.

The following steps have been taken to control poaching and to improve conservation efforts:

(i) A new centrally sponsored scheme has been recently approved entitled "Assistance for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife" under which financial assistance would be provided to the States to counteract poaching.

(ii) Wildlife Division in the Ministry of Environment and Forests is being strengthened, mainly for enforcement of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

(iii) Amendments have been made in the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 to ban trade in animals considered to be endangered and products deprived therefrom.

(iv) Coordination and liaison with Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Armed Forces, Customs, Coast guards has been increased for better enforcement of the Wild Life (Protection) Act.

(v) Financial assistance to the national parks, sanctuaries and Tiger Reserves has been enhanced.

(vi) Another new centrally sponsored scheme has been approved to give assistance to States for captive breeding and rehabilitation of certain selected endangered species.

Infiltration, smuggling and spying activities by Pakistani nationals in Kutch

369. SHRI SHARAD YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale infiltration, smuggling of drugs and fire arms spying activities by Pakistani nationals in Kutch (Gujarat) assuming alarming proportions with the rise of the population of villages bordering Pakistani mostly by Pakistani nationals;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any assessment of the situation; if so, what is the percentage of rise in the population of the Kutch villages bordering Pakistan and what percentage of the population has been identified as Pakistani nationals;

(c) under what circumstances the Paktani nationals were granted Indian citizenship and the voting rights; and

(d) what efforts have been made by Government to identify their Indian links helping their infiltration, smuggling and spying activities and what are the results achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

"भगीरथ" का प्रकाशन

370. **श्री राम नरेश कुशवाहा** : क्या **सूचना और प्रसारण** मंत्र यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) प्रकाशन प्रभाग द्वारा "भगीरथ" का प्रकाशन समाप्त किये जाने के क्या कारण हैं ;

(ख) प्रकाशन प्रभाग द्वारा हिन्दी तथा अंग्रेजी में इस लोकप्रिय पत्रिका का प्रकाशन पुनः आरम्भ किये जाने के लिए क्या कदम उठाए जाने की संभावना है ; और

(ग) सूचना संवर्ग में "भगीरथ" के कर्मचारीवृन्द को खपाने में विलम्ब के क्या कारण हैं ?